



Join Us In Measuring Progress

A Monthly
Assessment Newsletter
May 2003

Assessment for Learning

Grade Level Expectations Online

In the fall of 2002, the Office of Public Instruction facilitated a process that established grade level expectations for grades 3 - 8 for reading and mathematics. These expectations were necessary to meet federal requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and for the criterion referenced test being developed by Measured Progress and the Office of Public Instruction.

The Office of Public Instruction brought together some members of the original reading and mathematics writing teams and invited other district educators to participate in the review and extension of the grade level expectations.

To view the Math and Reading Grade Level Learning Expectations for Grades 3-8 please go to the following Web site: <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Standards/Index.html>

For more information, contact Linda Vrooman Peterson (406) 444-5726 or lvpeterson@state.mt.us.

Summer JUMP Newsletter

The June and July *JUMP* newsletters will be combined and published between June 25 and July 25. The August *JUMP* will resume on schedule.



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Minimum Number of Students for Reporting Increases

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that individual student privacy and confidentiality be maintained when information about students is reported. Individual student information is never reported to the public.

In order to assure that individual students cannot be identified, school results are not publicly reported or displayed when the number of students in a group or subgroup is fewer than 10. **Asterisks are used when the number of students in a group or subgroup is fewer than 10.**

In the past, the Office of Public Instruction has not reported data on fewer than 6 students. **The number has been increased to fewer than 10 students in any group or subgroup.**

For further information, contact:
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MontCAS, Phase 1, The Iowa Tests

Iowa Tests Results

Thank you to those districts (all but ten) that made the April 7 deadline for shipping materials to Riverside for scoring. Districts continue to receive results on a first-in/first-out basis from Riverside.

Riverside cannot begin to calculate Montana state results until all districts have been scored. This year, a few districts did not meet the April 7 deadline; therefore, state results to the Office of Public Instruction have been delayed. The following is the timetable of score release from the Office of Public Instruction:

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| • Mid June | State will receive results |
| • July 5-10 | By mail, districts receive user names and passwords and directions for accessing online secure data |
| • July 15-25 | Districts/schools review disaggregated data on a secure online site and contact OPI if they have questions |
| • July 17-18 | Aggregated state results will be presented to the Board of Public Education and placed online |
| • August 7-15 | Reportable disaggregated data will be posted online on the public site |
| • September 12-13 | Disaggregated state data analysis will be presented to the Board of Public Education and placed online |

Other Reports to Expect from Riverside

- **The Customized Skills Reports** comparing your district results to state results.
You have already received Customized Skills Reports comparing student to class to school to district. The district to state comparison report always arrives later because it is dependent on completion of scoring and calculation for the entire state.
- **And, IF you are a school/district with grade four students, the following report, The Individual Performance Profile** for all grade four students.
The Office of Public Instruction has purchased from Riverside this additional Iowa Test report for all grade four students in 2003. The Individual Performance Profile is particularly useful in planning instruction for individual students. This report will give specific information on strengths and weaknesses within the subject areas so classroom planning and instruction can address them. This report can be viewed and used by teachers and then stored in the cumulative records.

Districts that ordered this report as an optional service, will not receive a second copy. Riverside will simply not bill you for the service. If you are charged for this report by mistake, please contact Riverside Customer Service immediately at (800) 323-9540 and a credit will be issued.

A sample of the report is also available online at: http://www.riverpub.com/products/group/itbs_a/scoring.html#indperm

Tentative Iowa Test Window, Spring 2004

March 8 - 26, 2004

Welcome to Todd Hausman

Frosyne Mensendick, who has been Riverside's Montana assessment consultant, has taken another position at Riverside Publishing Company. Please welcome Montana's new assessment consultant, Todd Hausman. You can reach and meet Todd at todd_hausman@rpc.com or (800) 323-9540 x 7713.

Questions and Answers from May 13 Video Conference

Topic	Question	Answer
New Report provided by the Office of Public Instruction	What grade or grades and why?	The new report is the Individual Performance Profile. (See the complete article "Other Reports to Expect from Riverside" on the report in this issue of <i>JUMP</i> .) Because of limited funds, only grade 4 individual performance profiles were ordered. Best practices tell us that early interventions are the most effective. The information in the report will assist teachers in focusing on student strengths and weaknesses in the earliest grade that is tested in MontCAS, Phase 1, the Iowa Tests.
Customized Skills Reports	The report lists the number of items for each standard. What is the minimum number of items for use in evaluating test results?	We can begin to get indications with 12 items and not fewer than 10. However, larger numbers of items yield more generalizable data.
Variations in performance by grade.	A district that tests all grades has noticed that performance in grades 1-3 is high; it drops in grades 4-6 and then comes back up in 9-11. What does this tell us?	Montana tests grades 4, 8, and 11, so we have no statewide data to compare with this district. Possible answers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test taking skills and attitudes • Is taught curriculum aligned to state standards? • Look at other assessments and see if they show these same patterns. • For comparisons with other states, contact Riverside Publishing Company.
Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) starting point.		There were several questions on Adequate Yearly Progress. The Office of Public Instruction will address them all in detail in a separate document.

Iowa Test Results: Reading the Reports, 2003 Video Tape Available

The May 13 video conference for test coordinators and other district personnel is available by video tape. The tape can be checked out through Raelen Williard at the Office of Public Instruction Resource Center: rwilliard@state.mt.us or (406) 444-2082; (888) 332-6171 x 2082. In addition, the video conference is available in video stream format on the assessment web page, <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/assessment/index/html>.

Thank You

To Irene Strauss and Claudette Morton for their excellent presentations during the Iowa Test Results video conference. Irene is the test coordinator for Whitehall Public Schools, and Claudette is the Executive Director of the Montana Small Schools Alliance.

MontCAS, Phase 2, The Criterion Reference Test— Measured Progress

Thank You to Great Falls Educators

Brenda Landsiedel, Reading Coach, Cal Gilbert, Elementary School Principal, and Chris Wortman, Curriculum Director, presented information on the criterion-referenced test development at the May Board of Public Education meeting. They gave clear outlines and descriptions of the processes of item writing, bias review, and pilot test administration. Thank you to the Great Falls Public Schools for sharing the time and expertise of these busy people.

Teacher As Assessor Workshops

Measured Progress handles the reimbursements. The turn-around time is 3-4 weeks. If you have questions, please call Nancy Hall at Measured Progress: nhall@measuredprogress.org OR +1 (888) 792-2741

Examining Student Work: Professional Development from Measured Progress and the Office of Public Instruction

Examining Student Work gives Montana teachers an opportunity to learn a process for evaluating student work using rubrics and benchmark exemplars; to identify the content, concepts, and skills that students do and do not use with their work; and to engage in professional discussion, which leads to the identification of instructional implications.

Workshops will be held in several sites across the state the week of October 6. Invitations and registration information will be mailed to schools in August. Renewal units will be available. Please advise principals to watch for mail from Measured Progress.

Criterion-Referenced Test Window, Spring 2004

The first administration of the criterion-referenced tests in reading and math in grades 4, 8, and 10 is scheduled for the spring of 2004. Because of accountability system requirements, the tests need to be administered in the spring no later than the middle of April. The test contractor, Measured Progress, has proposed two test windows, both of which will meet scoring demands and accountability system requirements.

1. March 2004. With this option, the criterion-referenced tests would/could be administered before, after, or during the Iowa Test window (March 8 - 26).
2. April 2004, the first three weeks.

The Office of Public Instruction requests your input on your preference. A survey and directions are located online at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/regforms/testdate/>. Please complete it by June 10, 2003.

Summer Test Development

Another opportunity for professional development focused on assessment is work on the development of two tests that are required by the No Child Left Behind Act. The tests are an English proficiency test and alternate assessment for the criterion-referenced test.

With the assistance and expertise of educators from across the state, the Office of Public Instruction and Measured Progress will begin work on developing these tests.

If you or educators in your school/district are interested in participating in these processes during the summer, please contact Judy Snow, jsnow@state.mt.us OR (406) 444-3656. Renewal units will be available.